[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

RESOLUTION *Re*: REGISTRY OF LANDS RESERVED FOR CATTLE-GRAZING.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution to be discussed is:

"That this Council recommends to Government that the new policy of registering lands reserved for cattle-grazing being detrimental to agriculture, such lands be not registered."

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Sir, I move the following resolution:

"That this Council recommends to Government that the new policy of registering lands reserved for cattle-grazing being detrimental to agriculture, such lands be not registered".

Sir, there was a time when large blocks of land were lying waste and unregistered, and then the cattle when let out could graze anywhere they liked. But, later on, as population increased, such lands were reduced in extent, on account of their being registered for agricultural purposes and for the occupation of men. The Government then thought it unwise to shut out cattle entirely from where they were once ranging freely. Therefore here and there a few acres of land were reserved for cattle-grazing. If there had not been those lands, the number of cattle would not have been what it is now. After the reservation of such lands, people were allowed to squat and make improvements on some portions of the same with the result that these portions had eventually to be given away on registry. In order to know how much of such lands was registered after the reservation, I interpellated the Government in this Council. I doubt whether the extent of lands given in the table as registered would cover all the lands that have been registered since the date of reservation. The statement placed on the table the other day does not seem to contain figures showing the extent of the lands that have been registered during the whole period between the date of reservation and the date of my interpellation. Whatever that be, I am aware that the registry of grazing grounds has engaged the attention of the Government and that steps are being taken to reduce the extent of such grazing grounds.

One reason advanced for the registry of such lands is that difficulty is felt in keeping such lands intact because people are allowed to squat and make improvements on such lands, and that consequently the Government are not in a position to refuse registry. This difficulty, I believe, can be easily removed by making the revenue officers of the locality responsible for the same. There is another reason advanced, *viz.*, that, if cattle are allowed to come together and graze on the lands, they spread diseases and that the mixing up of superior and inferior cattle may lead to deterioration of breed. But it is only seldom, Sir, that we in this country hear of cattle diseases. By the closing up of grazing grounds, we cannot prevent any disease if it chooses to break out at any time, because the cattle of our villages are usually fed together even when there are no such grazing grounds, unless one engages a cowherd for oneself who should be forced to keep one's cattle away from the common

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herd. Further, the cattle here are mostly of the country breed. Very few have got cattle of higher breed and the owners of these would feed them without letting them out as they can afford to do so. For these reasons, the dangers alleged to arise from spread of diseases and deterioration of breed are only imaginary. In any case, the closing of grazing grounds cannot prevent them. On the other hand the closing of such lands would be detrimental to agriculture, cattle being the chief motive power in this State for agricultural operations. The poor farmers of villages, being deprived of the lands where they could graze their cattle, would be found ready to reduce their number if not entirely to get rid of them. Further, the poor cultivator in this country has a yoke of oxen and a cow and one or two sheep. He lives on what little he would get by hiring out the oxen, and from the cow and the sheep. His livestock is fed in the open grounds as he has not the means of buying fodder and as he cannot have grazing grounds of his own. He has been considerably helped by the lands reserved for cattle grazing.

The consequences of closing up grazing grounds to any extent are disastrous. The lands cannot be ploughed, cattle manure cannot be had, and milk and its products will disappear. The villager has not yet begun to buy fodder for his cattle and he has not got the means to do so.

Certain figures from the *Census Report* are worthy of note. The extent of lands requiring ploughing works at 6,48,610 acres and the heads of cattle available for ploughing are only 3,18,726 giving an average of one pair of bulls for 4 acres of land. But according to the statement of the Director of Agriculture, 3 pairs of bulls are necessary for ploughing 4 acres of land. So that the number available in the State is below one-half of what is actually required. Then with regard to milk supply, it is stated in the *Census Report* that each individual here will get only an ounce and a half of milk per day, while in British India quarter of a pint (*i. e.* 5 ounces) is available per head. It is also found mentioned in the report that, compared with the figures of the last Census, a decrease of 7 per cent. is observed in the total number of cattle. For these reasons, Sir, we are bound to increase the number of cattle considerably so as to meet our requirements.

Further, supposing there comes a time when it will be found necessary to increase the area of the grazing grounds will it be possible for the Government to get back the lands that are registered away at present? You know, Sir, that the head *chiras* of every paddy-field and tank-bed, used for irrigation purposes were once given away on registry. You have said, Sir, elsewhere, that it was a great mistake or folly committed and you have very wisely issued orders that they should never be registered but should invariably be reserved as *porambokes*. Similarly, Sir, when the necessity for increasing the area of grazing grounds rises at a future time, we shall be sorry and we shall not be able to get back such lands if they are now given away.

For these reasons, Sir, I place this resolution for the acceptance of this Council.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI: I second the resolution.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai,]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: കന്നകാലികൾക്കു മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളായി നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂമികളെ പുതുവൽ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാൻപാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ. സി. പി. കൊച്ചുകുഞ്ഞുപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവർൺമെന്റിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരുപോലെ എല്ലാക്കാലത്തും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി കഴിഞ്ഞ ക്ഷാമ കാലങ്ങളായി, അതായതു പ്രജാസഭയുടെ ആരംഭകാലംമുതൽ ഇതുവരെ, ഈ സംഗതി ഗവർൺമെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണു.

ജനങ്ങളും മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യകതയെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർൺമെന്റിനെ അറിയിച്ചുതുടങ്ങിയ കാലത്തുതന്നെ ഓരോ പകുതികളിലും ആവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചും അതിലേയ്ക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ വേർതിരിച്ചും കണക്കുകൾ തയ്യാറാക്കി അവയെ മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കായി നീക്കിവച്ചിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവർൺമെന്റിനും നിരന്തരമായ ഉപദ്രവങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇടവരികയില്ലായിരുന്നു. മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർൺമെന്റിനോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും അനുകൂലമായ മറുപടികളാണ് കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ളതു്. മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ ഡിവിഷൻ കച്ചേരികളിലും താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരികളിലും പകുതിക്കച്ചേരികളിലും കിടക്കവേതന്നെ അതിലേക്ക് ഉപയോഗിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്നതും ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതുമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ പുതുവൽ പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിലേക്ക് അധികൃതന്മാരെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചതായ കാരണം, ഭൂനികുതിയിൽനിന്നു് എങ്ങിനെയെങ്കിലും കഴിയുംവിധം കൂടുതൽ പണം ഉണ്ടാക്കണം എന്നുള്ള നയം ഗവർൺമെന്റു സ്വീകരിച്ചുപോരുന്നതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ നെൽകൃഷിയാണു പ്രധാന തൊഴിലായി സ്വീകരിച്ചുപോരുന്നതു്. അതിലേക്കു കന്നകാലികൾ ഒഴിച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതും അവയ്ക്കു മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതും അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ ഭൂനികുതിയുടെ വലുപ്പത്തിൽ ഉള്ള ഏക ചിന്തയാൽ വിസ്മരിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവർൺമെന്റിനാൽ വരുത്തിവയ്ക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ദോഷം മിക്കവാറും വരുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ പലേ താലൂക്കുകളിലും മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഗവർൺമെന്റുതന്നെ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതായാലും സാധിക്കാത്ത

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വിധം അവിടെ ഉള്ള ഭൂമികളെല്ലാം പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞുപോയ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി എന്തുതന്നെ പറഞ്ഞാലും പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കൊട്ടാരക്കരയിൽ ഉള്ളതുപോലെ അപൂർവം ചില താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴും മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കായുള്ള ഭൂമികൾ പതിവിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാതെ കിടപ്പുണ്ടു. ഇങ്ങനെ മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കായി ഭൂമികൾ കൊടുപ്പാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ താലൂക്കിന്റെ ഏതെല്ലാം ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കിടക്കുന്നു എന്നും ഏതെല്ലാം പകുതികൾക്ക് എത്ര ഭൂമികൾ വീതം കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും എന്നും ഉള്ളതിനു സ്ഥലം റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു കണക്കുകൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിച്ചു് ആ ഭൂമികളെ മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കായി നീക്കിവച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഭൂനികുതിയുടെ വർദ്ധനയിലുള്ള ഭ്രമത്താൽ ക്രമേണ ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും പുതുവൽ പതിവിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടു പോകുന്നതാണു.

ചില പകുതികളിൽ കന്നുകാലി മേച്ചിലിനായി വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ അതിലേയ്ക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. കണ്ടെഴുത്തുകാലങ്ങളിലും അതിൽപിന്നീടും ഒരുവിധത്തിലും കൃഷിക്ക് ഉപയോഗപ്പെടാത്തതും പതിച്ചുവാങ്ങാൻ ആരും തയ്യാറാവാത്തതും ആയ ഭൂമികളെ കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളായി വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളുണ്ടു. ചില മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കന്നുകാലികളെ കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ വഴിയില്ലാതേയും ഉണ്ടു്. മേച്ചിലിനു് അനുരൂപമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ പലതിലും ചുറ്റുമുള്ള ഭൂമി ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രവേശിച്ചു് അനേകകാലമായി ദേഹണ്ഡങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തു പുതുവൽ പതിപ്പിച്ചു, എടുത്തുവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ അത്യാവശ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി അധികൃതന്മാർ വേണ്ടപോലെ അറിഞ്ഞു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്ത കാരണത്താൽ ആ സംഗതി ഇപ്പോൾ മിക്കവാറും നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തനിലയിൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ സംഗതിയിൽ പലേ അവസരങ്ങളിലും കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർ ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ളയുമായി സംസാരിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. നല്ലതും ചീത്തയും ആയ കന്നുകാലികളെ ഒന്നായി കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ തീറ്റിവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അവയുടെ വർഗ്ഗം ക്ഷയിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നാണു അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നതു്. അതിലേയ്ക്ക് അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്ന പരിഹാരം ചീത്തവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടതായ കന്നുകാലികളെ ചെറുപ്പത്തിലേതന്നെ കാസ്റ്റ്രേറ്റു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരെ നിയമത്താൽ നിർബന്ധിക്കണമെന്നാണു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഈ അഭിപ്രാ-

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

യപ്രകാരം നിയമം ഉണ്ടാക്കി ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പരീക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നതു കൊള്ളാമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ദോഷം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാമെങ്കിലും ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ കന്നുകാലികളെല്ലാം കെട്ടിനിറുത്തി തീറുന്നതിന് ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് ഒരിക്കലും സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ — ലെ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും കന്നുകാലികളെ തീറുന്നതിനായി പ്രത്യേകസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ അവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാർ നീക്കിവയ്ക്കുന്നതായി അറിയാം. അവിടത്തേയും ഇവിടത്തേയും കൃഷിക്കാർക്കും കൃഷികൾക്കും കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരു സാമ്യവുമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ചെറിയ കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങളാണു മിക്കവാറും ആളുകൾക്കുള്ളതു്. അതിൽനിന്നും ഏതാനും സ്ഥലം കന്നുകാലികളുടെ തീറ്റിക്കായി നീക്കിവയ്ക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഇവിടെയുള്ള മിക്കവാറും കൃഷിക്കാരും അവരുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങളും പട്ടിണി കിടക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പലേ കാരണങ്ങളാലും സർക്കാർവക ഭൂമികളെ മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഓരോ പകുതികൾക്കുമോ ഓരോ താലൂക്കിനുമോ മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള ടിക്കുകളിൽ അതിലേക്കായി ഭൂമികൾ നീക്കിവച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീടുമാത്രമേ അവിടെ പുതുവൽ പതിവിനു തുടങ്ങാവൂഎന്നുള്ള നിർബന്ധം വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളോടുകൂടി മിസ്റ്റർ സി. പി. കൊച്ചുകുഞ്ഞുപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി താങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Sir, I think this resolution has been brought forward under some slight misunderstanding of the actual facts of the case. I can assure the House that there is no new policy on the part of Government about the reserving of lands for cattle-grazing. The policy of Government has ever been that enunciated by the member.

Government have all along recognised the necessity of having fodder reserves by setting apart lands in convenient places at no great distance from villages for the purpose and the need for affording all other facilities for grazing.

I would draw the attention of the House to the origin of grazing lands which will be found in G. O. No. 3142, dated the 1st July, 1907/17th Mithunam, 1082 (*vide* page 388, Vol. II of the *Land Revenue Manual*), in which Government have laid special stress on this matter. They pointed out that they could not supply lands for all cattle in the State, but could at best only aim at supplementing stall-feeding. In pursuance

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of the G. O., steady attempts have been made to select as many lands as possible in the several taluks of the State for the purpose of cattle-grazing.

I would also draw the attention of the House to the fact that Government have afforded further encouragement and facilities for grazing cattle by allowing free grazing-grounds to all Travancore cattle in Forest Reserves. In most of the taluks, there are large reserved forests which are open to free grazing for Travancore cattle, which is not the case elsewhere.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Are there any means of distinguishing Travancore cattle from non-Travancore cattle?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: If the various officers concerned think that they find any non-Travancore cattle, they would make enquiries, I daresay. And I think, in villages in Travancore, the local officers generally know who are the owners of the cattle grazing in the reserves.

You will observe from the reply given on the 16th April, 1923, to Mr. C. P. Kochu Kunju Pillai's interpellation that as large areas as it is possible to provide for cattle-grazing have been reserved for that purpose alone in all parts of the State.

MR. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai challenged the correctness of this list. He has not shown any instance where it is wrong.

PRESIDENT: What he challenged was the list of lands which had been assigned out of those shown in the list.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: That is correct, Sir. No instances have been given where that list is not correct. It is true that sometimes Government have been forced to register part of a land originally set apart for grazing, but this has always been due to some special circumstances absolutely necessitating the matter. For instance, in the Kottarakara taluk, it was found that an unnecessarily large area, 9,723 acres, had been set apart for grazing; and in the time of Sir P. Rajagopalachari it was resolved that it was unnecessary to keep such a large area as this for cattle-grazing and that it would be more to the interests of the State to allow some of it to be brought under cultivation for increasing the food production of the State; so an extent of 7,610·90 acres was ordered to be registered leaving still a large area of over 2,000 acres for cattle-grazing. The Government Proceedings about this matter will be found on page 993 of the *Land Revenue Manual*, Vol. II (G. O. No. 9139, dated 10th August, 1913). Mr. Kochukunju Pillai says that the lands were registered because the people were allowed to squat on the lands and make improvements, or because there was the probability of spread of diseases. These are not the only reasons why some lands originally reserved as grazing grounds have been registered. Each case has been decided on its own merits and no land has been registered away unless it was absolutely necessary to do so. There may be other similar cases where the special circumstances of the case have necessitated a small bit of the reserve being registered; but you will see that

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[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

it has been the policy of Government to conserve the lands that are really required for cattle-grazing and not to register them. If certain lands have been registered, it has been due to unavoidable circumstances. I think I have explained the matter sufficiently. Under these circumstances, I would request the member to withdraw the resolution.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: Sir, it needs hardly saying that cattle form the most important help to man, especially in such a State as Travancore, where the people are mostly agricultural. What the horse is to an English farmer, that the ox is to an Indian agriculturist. The ox assists man in agriculture by very hard labour and the cow by yielding its own milk. The cow is held sacred by the Hindus for the soundest of reasons, *viz.*, the preservation of their own life, for furnishing the best article for their food. Yet, generally speaking, no animals in the world are less considerately or more unmercifully treated. The very existence of the tax-paying ryot is supported by them, and yet there is not a subject on which less attention is bestowed by the people than the feeding, the improvement of breed and the protection of cows and oxen. In the latest *Census Report* we find the following:

"The Director of Agriculture reports that deterioration of cattle in the State is due to the want of natural fodder and the indifference on the part of the people in the matter of maintenance and breeding of cattle.

The fall in the number of cows, she-buffaloes and sheep amounts to 37 per cent.

Cows and she-buffaloes chiefly supply the milk required for the people. Assuming that one-third of their number is old, or young, or sterile, and half the remaining is dry. The number of milking cows and she-buffaloes may be put down at 1,11,824. Taking that each cow yields one *edangali* (two-sevenths of a gallon) and each she-buffalo two *edangalies* (four-sevenths of a gallon) of milk per day, the total quantity drawn in a day is about 33,833 gallons; and, if, with this quantity, the whole population has to be served, each person will get about one and a half ounces of milk per day, while, in India, one-fourth pint is available per man in place of two pints actually required for Indians, whose diet consists chiefly of vegetables."

In this matter of the feeding of cows, the people themselves can do very little without the active co-operation and help of Government. Though Government have been paying some attention to the subject through the Agricultural Department, yet the state of grazing grounds for cattle has not met with any tangible improvement.

I must submit that to neglect this all-important subject is to neglect our own health, our own comforts, our own life and that of our own dear children on the foundation of whose health the whole superstructure of the future prosperity of Travancore rests. I may adapt Christ's saying and say, "What shall it avail a man to gain the whole world and lose his own health?" For the Hindus and most Christians, cow's milk is an indispensable article of diet. To the Hindus and many others who are mostly vegetarians, it is the main source of their power, vigour and health. The enormous death-rate among infants in the Bombay Presidency—about 48 per cent—is attributed to the poor supply of cow's milk. We know that the well-known *Vechur* cows have become extinct. They have all disappeared from Vaikam.

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MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Is it on account of the absence of grazing grounds?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: That is what I believe.

Unless proper grazing grounds are allowed for cattle and the grounds maintained in good condition, I fail to see how we can succeed in getting the required quantity and quality of cow's milk. I need hardly refer to the extreme difficulty we feel in getting, and the exorbitant prices we have to pay for, cow's milk at present. Nay, even if we are prepared to pay decently, good cow's milk is not obtainable. Sir, let us not think of the aristocratic or the official classes who can procure milk even at high prices, but only of the common folk and country men for whom there is very little provision either for the supply of good milk or for grazing grounds. Is not our lethargy a suicidal one? At and about Varkalai, where large tracts of grazing grounds were, till recently, available, and where the name Varkalai *tayir* (curds) had been proverbial for the best butter-milk, what do we find now? At present, the name Varkalai *tayir* would be a by-word for the worst butter-milk we can get. What is the reason? It is because all the ground that was once used as grazing ground for cattle has been filled with human habitations and all available space has been purchased by Mahomedan and other merchants who have got rich by their trade at Rangoon. Thus people swell their purses and starve their own bodies.

In this connection, I may refer to the artificial inducement of conception in cows by cattle-breeders. Cows and bulls are not let loose to roam at large and pair of their own free will. The consequence is that the cows do not yield as much milk (I say this subject to correction by Dr. Kunjan Pillai), as when they breed under natural conditions. I understand that the charges for maintaining the milch and the dry cows per head per day is about 6 annas, or the average earning of an ordinary labourer. This may be taken as the cost of maintaining a cow in an efficient condition. Can any ordinary ryot afford to set apart this amount for each cow and bull of his? If grazing grounds be made avilable, he may be able to maintain them at very much less cost. The cost, *a fortiori*, must be much more in the case of those who live in towns.

It is high time, I submit, that we pay special and sustained attention to the care of our cattle, if we have any care for our own health and life. Whenever an epidemic like influenza or small-pox breaks out, people easily succumb to it, because of their want of reserve nerve-power to resist the disease germs. There is therefore every reason why we should place the provision of grazing grounds for cattle in the fore-front of the subjects which claim our attention. And I trust that the Agricultural Department, duly supported by the Government, will be able to satisfy the people's longings by substantial progress in this matter in the near future. We want farms for maintaining dry cows. We must have also large areas of grazing grounds *attached to each town and village* for the feeding of milch and dry cows, which latter are generally starved till they bring forth again.

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[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, the resolution, as it stands, assumes that the Government have adopted a new policy of registering lands reserved for cattle-grazing. Mr. Robinson has pointed out that the Government have not adopted any new policy in this respect. The Government have, from time immemorial, recognised the necessity for reserving grazing grounds, and have, accordingly, reserved lands for that purpose; but, under certain special circumstances, they might have found that some lands out of those reserved for cattle-grazing could be assigned for cultivation. Except under such special circumstances, the Government, as pointed out by Mr. Robinson, have not adopted the policy, —whether old or new—of registering away the lands reserved for grazing. On this point, I do not wish to say anything further, because Mr. Robinson has fully dealt with it.

I would like to say, however, a few words on the necessity for improving the condition of cattle in Travancore. It is admitted on all hands that cattle in Travancore, when compared with those outside, either in British India or in other countries, are very poor. This, in my opinion, is due to several causes. Our climate is one of the chief causes of the poor condition of our cattle. The heavy rainfall and the damp atmosphere, as they are injurious to the health of man, are also injurious to the health of cattle. Added to these natural conditions which militate against the breeding of good cattle, our ryots, unlike those of other parts of India, pay absolutely no attention either to the breeding or to the feeding of their cattle. Mr. T. Kumara Pillai said that in British India ryots cultivate their own fodder crops. That is the practice obtaining there; and in Travancore, absolutely nothing is being done in that direction. Mr. Kumara Pillai seems to think that fodder crops are not cultivated in Travancore because of the absence of lands or of the necessity for every inch of land being cultivated with food crops. I am sorry I have to differ from him in that view. I can show Mr. Kumara Pillai thousands of acres in this country remaining uncultivated—lands registered but lying waste. I think that every ryot who owns a few acres of land, if he cares for his cattle, could use a portion of his land, though it may be a small portion, for the cultivation of fodder crops. That is being done everywhere, except, as I said, in Travancore.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Will Dr. Kunjan Pillai give us a rough idea as to the extent of lands reserved for cattle-grazing?

PRESIDENT: That is given in the answer to Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's question; there are two totals there.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I wish to know whether Dr. Kunjan Pillai keeps a list of the lands reserved as grazing grounds and whether he exercises any control over lands reserved as grazing lands.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: No, I have no list of the lands reserved for grazing nor has my department any control over such lands. They are all under the control of the Land Revenue Department. The point I am urging is this. If Travancore ryots really want to take

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care of their cattle, they should cultivate fodder crops on a portion of their holdings. The plea of want of lands will not stand scrutiny. Everywhere else, the practice of cultivating fodder crops exists; and if the Travancore ryots want to improve their cattle they should also adopt that practice. I do not think that the question of the improvement of cattle in Travancore would be solved by reserving a few thousand acres of land as grazing grounds. Mr. Kumara Pillai pointed out that some lands reserved for grazing do not contain grass at all. All good lands have already been taken up by Mr. Kumara Pillai and his friends so that only poor lands remain unassigned and these have been reserved as grazing grounds. Mr. Kumara Pillai himself admits that more lands are required for the production of food crops, and that all lands, whether reserved as grazing grounds or not, which could be used for the cultivation of food crops, ought to be assigned for that purpose. If Mr. Kumara Pillai had made such a suggestion, it would have been more justifiable. I do not say, however, that all the grazing lands should be thrown open or assigned away for cultivation. Government have been reserving lands for grazing as far as possible and there is not going to be a change in this policy. But if more lands are to be reserved so as to provide some grazing grounds for each village, as has been suggested by some gentlemen, it can only be done by Government acquiring extensive lands at several places at enormous cost. Is this practicable? I do not think it is.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: What is the real objection?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The enormous cost involved. Government have stated, in their answer to the interpellation on grazing grounds, that above 20,000 acres of land have been reserved for grazing; but several times this area will have to be acquired if each village is to be provided with its own grazing ground.

Mr. Kochukunju Pillai raised the point that common grazing grounds are likely to be centres for the spread of contagious diseases. He brushed aside that question by saying that seldom are there serious outbreaks of cattle diseases in Travancore. That statement is not entirely true. Rinderpest and foot and mouth disease occur almost every year in some part of the country or other. The common grazing grounds are the main centres for the spread of these diseases. It is not a slight matter to be brushed aside. It is a very serious question and deserves careful consideration.

Mr. Kumara Pillai argued that by letting cattle into common grazing grounds promiscuous breeding takes place which leads to deterioration of cattle. That, I think, is a very strong argument against the maintenance of common grazing grounds. I heartily approve of Mr. Kumara Pillai's suggestion to introduce legislation compelling the castration of all bad bulls, and if only some non-official member would bring in a bill for this purpose, I would be the first man to support it.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is there anything to prevent Dr. Kunjan Pillai himself bringing forward that bill?

PRESIDENT: That is an impracticability, I suppose.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: If a non-official member introduces that bill, it will show that the public feels the necessity for it The common grazing grounds, I maintain, are centres for the spread of contagious diseases and for the promiscuous breeding of cattle.

PRESIDENT: You must hurry up, I think.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir. In spite of these evils, Government have not prohibited the grazing of cattle on any of these lands reserved for the purpose.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Are all the lands mentioned in the statement appended to the answer to Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's question reserved for cattle-grazing?

PRESIDENT: They are reserved.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Have Government ordered registry of these lands?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Robinson has stated that there is no new policy. It was only certain special circumstances that necessitated the registry of certain lands. Each individual case is being looked into by the Government. That was what Mr. Robinson said. If Mr. Kochukunju Pillai would press his resolution, I would explain things before I put this to the vote, because I have been taking special interest in this matter.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The Government, as I already said, have not adopted any new policy in dealing with grazing grounds.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Has the Agricultural Department been consulted before the registry of these grazing grounds?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: No. In the light of the facts I have explained, I hope that Mr. Kochukunju Pillai will see his way to withdraw his resolution.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: I wish to know whether there is any real objection, besides the impracticability, in having, as an ideal, the provision of grazing grounds around every town and village.

PRESIDENT: That is a very good ideal. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: Why not we try to approach the ideal?

PRESIDENT: That is not the resolution before us.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: With respect to the reservation of land for purposes of grazing, I think, Sir, the process has been going on from the days of the last land revenue settlement. I am not sure whether such reservation of lands as grazing grounds was

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actually made after consultation with the Director of Agriculture. At any rate, one thing is clear from the answer that I have been able to draw forth from the Director of Agriculture; that is to say, before some of these reserved lands were registered, neither the opinion of the Agricultural Department nor the views of the inhabitants of the locality for whose benefit the lands were reserved, seem to have been taken into consideration at all. It may be that some of these lands set apart for grazing purposes are not useful for the purpose for which they were reserved. Therefore, the whole question requires a thorough examination not only by the Land Revenue Commissioner but by the Agricultural Department as well. I was extremely sorry to hear the fact that the Agricultural Department is in the dark with respect to the grazing grounds.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you are quite right in putting it like that. Dr. Kunjan Pillai did not say that his department was in the dark. He only said that the lands are under the control of the Land Revenue Department.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: All that I mean is this; the officers of the Agricultural Department do not seem to take any interest in the lands in question either by favouring the retention of the said lands as reserved grounds or by agreeing to restore them to their original condition. They do not care any more than the man in the street as to the advantages or desirability of reserving lands as pasture grounds. Such an attitude implies that they are not concerned in the matter at all. That is all that I mean by saying that they are practically in the dark. They allow the whole concern to be run by the Land Revenue Department. That, I beg to submit, is not a very sound policy. First of all, it has to be determined whether a particular plot will serve the purpose for which it is reserved; and if it can be shown that that plot will not answer the purpose for which the reservation was made, one cannot successfully resist the reversion of such land to the original condition nor object to its subsequent registry. In view of these difficulties which are found entwined about the resolution that is now before the House, a modified form of the resolution seems to be necessary.

PRESIDENT: May I tell you that what you have just now suggested has already been done? I am anticipating my speech because I wanted to clear the matter.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Then, I have no further quarrel in that respect. What Mr. Kochukunju Pillai means by 'new policy' is the policy inaugurated by the Government after the recent settlement. There has been some criticism about the wording of the resolution. The wording of the resolution, after all, does not present such an insuperable difficulty as has been thought by the official side. I support the resolution with such modifications as are necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, one argument which Dr. Kunjan Pillai put forward with his characteristic eloquence was that these common grounds will lead to the spread of epidemics like rinderpest. It may or may not be true; but proceeding as it does from a

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

gentleman of the scientific knowledge of Dr. Kunjan Pillai, it requires more than usual boldness on the part of a layman like myself to stand up and challenge the soundness of that opinion. If a common grazing ground would breed rinderpest, organised life in cities would *ipso facto* mean the spread of various diseases among mankind; and so, if we accept the opinion that has been so light-heartedly advanced by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, the corollary to that will be that hereafter, in consideration of the probable dangers of city life, there should not be any more cities in Travancore, or, for that matter, in any part of the world. This puts me in mind of a strange proposal jocosely made by a great man of genius, that the safest and surest method of preventing poverty in Ireland was to put to death every new-born infant. I am really surprised that gentlemen come forward and think with all optimism that we, on this side of the House, will swallow all the official baits thus thrown out to us. When a scientific gentleman comes forward and maintains in all gravity that, as grazing grounds will lead to the spread of rinderpest, there should not be any grazing grounds in the land, I am inclined to think that it is an unmerited slur on the intelligence of this Council. If the Director of Agriculture is able to base his case on other and better reasons, his standpoint will have to be carefully considered. But this reason is manifestly untenable, and I hope gentlemen on the other side will not repeat such arguments.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, I still maintain that common grazing grounds are a source of disease.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: The spread of infection should be prevented. If the Director of Agriculture is not able to do that, I do not think we will be justified in spending large sums of money on the Agricultural Department.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: The correct view to be taken in the matter of grazing grounds is to affirm that the necessity does exist and that they ought to be provided for in spite of the risk of cattle-diseases breaking out by the retention of common grazing grounds. Legislation cannot get rid of diseases whether in man or in cattle; but the legislature has already provided a law for preventing the spread of cattle-diseases. It is in the Statute Book. That regulation has to be worked out in the event of epidemics breaking out. While accepting the scientific accuracy of Dr. Kunjan Pillai's statement that common grazing grounds *may* be a nursery for the spread of epidemic diseases, it does not satisfy me as a sufficient answer to the demand for the provision of common grazing grounds.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid you have misunderstood Dr. Kunjan Pillai. He did not put it as an answer to this demand, but he only mentioned it as a fact.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: If that fact is to be pressed before the House as an argument against this demand—

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DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I said that there is the possibility of cattle diseases; but I also said that the Government have not been registering away these common grazing grounds except under exceptional circumstances, and that they do not propose to do so hereafter. I never advanced it as an argument.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: When I stood up, I never said that the Government are unmindful of the necessity for retaining common grazing grounds. My view was that the possibility of cattle-diseases coming up in consequence of the provision of common grazing grounds should not, under any circumstances, interfere with the accepted policy of the Government as to the necessity for creating common grazing grounds. Diseases are unavoidable, but that is no ground for starving men or cattle. Perhaps, Sir, if a distinct policy is enunciated by the Government and if there is an undertaking that grazing grounds which are fitted to serve that purpose and which are in existence at present will not be registered hereafter, that may go a very long way to meet Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's demand.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: The improvement of cattle in this country is a matter of the greatest importance; but from my limited experience of the question, I should think that the remedy does not lie in the provision of additional grazing grounds but in an intelligent appreciation of the problem by the people themselves. Cattle, driven in herds to graze where they may, are seen to be of the poorest specimen. On the other hand in the case of stall-fed cattle—cows and buffaloes fed on nutritious foodstuffs—whose owners also keep animals of good breed there is some appreciable improvement in the breed. The real remedy lies, it seems to me, in creating greater interest in the people themselves in the improvement of cattle. I have not got much experience of either the necessity for grazing grounds or of the difficulties caused by the absence of grazing grounds. Therefore, I am not in a position to say anything with regard to that aspect of the question. In the cases of the few grazing grounds I have seen, there was very little grass. What little grass there was was immediately eaten away by a few stray cattle. If people would set apart grass plots in portions of their lands and cultivate lucerne grass, maize, etc., thereon, and if they would properly preserve the surplus by means of siloes or other such contrivances, there would be a marked improvement. It may even be desirable that the Agricultural Department should encourage people to start such methods by giving them some small grants, as is done in the case of owners of good seed-bulls.

With regard to the spread of epidemics through the instrumentality of grazing grounds, I have had one experience of it. In Kuttanad, immediately after the harvest season, there are hundreds of plots of paddy lands, each hundreds and thousands of acres in extent, which for two or three months each year become common grazing grounds. Thousands of cattle are then taken and left in these fields till the fields are immersed in flood water. In one year hundreds of cattle including a few of my own were affected in that season by rinderpest and foot and mouth disease and many died.

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[President.]

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: May I ask whether this is an annual occurrence ?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: No. I merely testify to the occurrence in one particular year. I am unable to give the exact number of cattle that died then. I simply refer to the existence of such a possibility. I do not bring it forward as an argument against the provision of grazing grounds. The necessity for the improvement of the breed of the cattle of the country is most urgent, because we find that every year animals here are getting more and more diminutive in size. Until some measures are taken to remedy this evil, no real improvement in the agriculture of the country is possible. If grazing fields will be of any use, I am sure, Government ought to do everything in their power to provide them. As I have said, I am unable to say from personal experience how far grazing grounds have been beneficial in this country. My surmise is that there may be other ways, besides the provision of grazing grounds, which may prove a more efficacious method of improving the breed of cattle in this country. It is indubitable that the subject deserves the most careful consideration of Government.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Sir, in the matter of grazing grounds, it is generally the people that ought to be protected against themselves. It is not exactly the Government who are chiefly responsible for the registry of these grazing grounds. So far as I know, that has been the history in our parts. Scarcity of lands, together with the land hunger that exists among the people, generally drives them to resort to every means to get lands registered, whether such lands are intended for grazing or for other common purposes. Perhaps, you may remember that I was a member of a deputation which met you at Alwaye about some grazing grounds near Malayattur. It was to represent our grievances regarding such an attempted registry that we approached you on that occasion. People, without looking to the inconvenience likely to be caused thereby, especially due to the increase of population and the consequent dearth of land, generally go in for registration of lands irrespective of their character, and if rules are not framed so as to restrict registration of lands reserved for common purposes, there is no knowing where it would land us. From what I gathered from your own words and from the words of the official members on the other side of the House, I think Government have issued instructions that portions of grazing grounds which are not really fit to be used as such can be registered. I say that such a rule itself is dangerous in the present state of affairs. It is not difficult to induce the revenue officers.—

PRESIDENT: That was not the instruction.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: That is what I surmise, what I gathered from your words.

PRESIDENT: The instruction is that assignments should be made only after consulting local opinion and personal inspection by the Division Peishkar or his Assistant and reporting to Government.

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MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: After consulting local opinion! Such instructions are often honored more in their breach than in their observance. If I am an influential man, I just put in a petition, and it is a very simple thing for me to get two or three people to say that the land is useless as a grazing ground and can be registered in my name.

PRESIDENT: The Peishkar has to inspect the land and personally satisfy himself. That is the order.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: The order may be that. So far as I know—and everybody here knows it also—the order then is not generally carried out. On a careful consideration of the question, what I would suggest is that the area of grazing gounds that now exists should, on no account, be registered away, except after ascertaining and marking off such portions there of as are really unfit for grazing; I mean, after taking a full and complete list of the areas unfit for grazing purposes. Government may then register such lands. That will not be productive of any harm.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Does the member mean that under no circumstances should any portion of these grazing lands be registered?

PRESIDENT: No, he does not mean that. He wants to call for a general list of lands that are not fit for grazing and then dispose of them bit by bit.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: I understood him to say that under no circumstances should they be registered.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Such an order, restraining the revenue officers from registering grazing lands in every part of the country, may do much good at present.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I rise to a point of order? I understood the answer to this resolution by Mr. Robinson to be that no new policy has been enunciated and that Government do not propose to register any more lands.

PRESIDENT: He did not say so. He said that no new policy has been laid down by Government.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: If that is so, I do not know where we stand. The resolution is: "That this Council recommends to Government that the *new policy* of registering lands reserved for cattle-grazing being detrimental to agriculture, such lands be not registered". If there is no new policy as stated by Mr. Robinson, then no resolution is necessary at all.

PRESIDENT: It is for the member who moved the resolution to realise that. He perhaps gives a special interpretation to the words "new policy".

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: I will explain it myself. By "new policy", I meant the principle of registry. At a time when land was set apart for grazing grounds, the intention of the Government must have been that these lands should never be registered

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[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

in future. Now, I am aware that orders have been issued by the Government to the local Tahsildars inviting a list of the areas of such lands with a view to registry, so that the policy of the Government that those lands reserved as cattle *poramboke* should be left intact is now being changed to a policy that such lands should be registered and given away. Therefore, by "new policy" I mean the principle of registering lands reserved for cattle-grazing.

PRESIDENT: Are you aware of the terms of the orders issued to the Tahsildars?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: I do not know the exact terms.

PRESIDENT: What do you mean by "new policy"?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: The principle of registry.

PRESIDENT: Laid down when?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Laid down by the correspondence going on between the Government and their subordinates at present.

PRESIDENT: Then you come back to the old thing. You say that there has been a new policy different from the policy once enunciated.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Yes. Originally the lands were not to be registered; but now the registry of grazing grounds has engaged the attention of Government and steps are being taken. That is exactly what I mean by "new policy".

PRESIDENT: That is not the new policy.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: I am not responsible for the terms. Registry of grazing lands *once set apart or reserved for this purpose alone* is engaging the attention of Government and steps are now being taken to see that such lands are registered. The statement placed on the table shows the extent of lands that have already been registered from those lands after the date of their reservation.

PRESIDENT: 510 acres out of 22,000 acres.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: No, no.

Kurichi	95·13 acres	have been ordered to be registered.
Nedumangad	8 acres 93 cents	"
Chemmaruti	5 acres 45 cents	"
Alur	1 acre 87 cents	"
Poruvazhi	10 acres 53 cents	"
Enadimangalam	9 acres 80 cents	"
Vallikkode	13 acres 81 cents	"

My position is this—

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PRESIDENT: You are making a speech instead of explaining. I think that you are not strictly adhering to the rules.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I move that the question be now put.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I second it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I may be permitted to speak a word.

PRESIDENT: There is a motion for closure. I will put that motion to vote.

The motion for closure was put and carried.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kochukunju Pillai, you may now reply.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: There seems to be a misconception as to the meaning of the term which I used, that is, the expression "new policy". By that term what I meant was this. In my speech I have already said that there was a time when certain areas of land were set apart for the grazing of cattle, and I believe it must have been the intention of the then Government to see that these lands were entered in Government records as cattle *poramboke*, by which it would mean that they are lands not to be registered thereafter.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: May I know what was the population then and by how much it has increased?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: The answer to that question only strengthens my position. If the population has increased, the area for cattle-grazing should also increase. After the reservation of such lands, we find from the answer given by Government that some lands have been registered. Besides these lands that were already registered, I understand that others have now received the attention of the Government and that steps are being taken to see that some portions of such lands are also brought under registry. On account of that it was that I said that a new policy is now being pursued by Government to see that such lands are registered. It is only that procedure adopted by Government that tempted me to put in the words 'new policy'. The object of my resolution is to see that lands once set apart for the grazing of cattle remain as such, and are never registered.

Mr. Robinson has been telling us that more lands than are necessary are now found in certain places; and as an instance of that he quoted my own taluk, Kottarakara. Of course, from the list that I received the other day, I understand that two thousand acres of land are set apart as grazing grounds. I may answer him this way The area of the taluk, Sir, is 202·03 square miles, and I may also tell him that the distance from the southern to the northern end of the taluk is above 30 miles and the distance between the western end and the eastern end is about 15 miles. So, I think that the extent of lands reserved in that taluk is not in any way out of proportion to its area, and secondly, to the population of the place. Though, at first sight, it may appear that at present such an extent of land is not necessary, there will come a

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[M. S. C. H. Robinson.]

time when the population of the taluk may increase and the number of cattle in the taluk also may increase, so that the entire extent of land now reserved for that taluk may be found necessary in future. That disposes of the only point that has been urged by Mr. Robinson.

One point that was advanced by Dr. Kunjan Pillai was about the diseases of cattle. With regard to that argument, I said in my speech that the closing up of grazing grounds cannot prevent the spread of diseases; because the only way in which people living in villages usually feed their cattle is taking them together on some ground other than grazing grounds, if no such grounds are reserved. Even then, diseases might spread. Therefore, the closing up of grazing grounds alone cannot prevent the spread of diseases.

Then, Mr. Govinda Menon has been telling us that it is the look-out of the people to see that their cattle are taken care of.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I never said anything of the kind.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Then, I do not mean answering that. I now place the resolution for the consideration of the Council.

PRESIDENT: Have you anything to say, Mr. Robinson?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Sir, the member has not shown that there has been any new policy on the part of Government. I can only repeat what I said. Government have all along been in full sympathy with this very important question of keeping lands that are fit for grazing reserves as such. Mr. Lakshmana Pillai suggested that there should be grazing lands in each *pakuthi*. Is this possible? What would be the cost of acquisition of such lands and where are the funds to meet it?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: Supposing the people also assist in placing the lands at the disposal of Government.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Placing lands without compensation?

PRESIDENT: That is not the matter before the Council now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I wish to know whether any funds are necessary to reserve grazing grounds.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Funds are necessary if lands are to be acquired.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I wish to know whether there are no unregistered lands which can be converted into grazing grounds.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Possibly there are. If we get requests for grazing grounds, the question will be considered.

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I understand Mr. Kochukunju Pillai to say that none of these grazing grounds should on any account be registered in future. Is it possible to make it a hard and fast rule? Probably, Mr. Kochukunju Pillai is not aware of the circumstances under which these different registrations have been affected. I have been looking into the matter. In one of the places, I find that a school has been erected.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Why was the school allowed to be built on a grazing ground?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: That was a long time ago, probably before I came here.

Then, as regards the Kottarakara taluk, I did not say that the area of the grazing ground was too large. All that I pointed out was that at the time of Sir P. Rajagopalachari it was considered too large. In many taluks there are various forest reserves where free grazing is allowed for Travancore cattle. Government never wanted to register any land which was useful for grazing. If lands have been at any time taken away from grazing blocks, it has been done for some special unavoidable circumstance; or it might have been discovered in some cases that the lands were rocky and inaccessible or swampy and wrongly included in the grazing reserves and that there was no use in keeping them as grazing reserves. I will also point out that at the present moment 22,000 and odd acres have been set apart for grazing reserves. In addition to these lands, in most of the taluks there are forest reserves where free grazing is allowed. Out of these 22,000 acres, which have been set apart for grazing blocks, only 51 acres have actually been registered from the time these were declared as grazing reserves up to now. In addition to the 51 acres, 95 acres have been ordered to be registered. All the rest of this area has not been interfered with.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Are these grounds fit for grazing?

PRESIDENT: I have seen them myself and I can tell you.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: In my first speech, I pointed out that there is no new policy enunciated by the Government. I also pointed out that, although the correctness of the list given in the answer had been challenged, no instance has been shown where anything in it is incorrect. I would suggest that under the circumstances the resolution might be withdrawn as there is no new policy and as it has been shown that the policy of the Government has really all along been to carry out what has been suggested by the House.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kochukunju Pillai, do you press your resolution to a division?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: I wish to hear the President also.

PRESIDENT: Apparently, you want the resolution to be voted upon. I must say, in the first instance, that there has been a good deal of misunderstanding in regard to this question. This question is one of the first things that came to my notice when I came to Travancore. I found in the course of my circuit that lands reserved as grazing grounds were

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[President.]

being encroached upon and being used for purposes other than grazing, and it was brought to my notice that some portions of the lands reserved as grazing grounds were really not useful as grazing grounds, as Mr. Kumara Pillai remarked. Some of the lands were stony and some were rocky; and others very swampy. We all know the way in which these lists were prepared. When these lands were reserved some 30 or 40 years ago, some people prepared them in a slipshod fashion.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai was referring to some mysterious orders issued to the revenue officers. These orders were really the results of my visit to these lands, as Dewan. People settled on some of these lands by squatting on them. The lands had to be registered in their favour, because they were not useful as grazing grounds. The various plots mentioned in the lists only go to swell the figures. Most of them are not really useful lands. I, therefore, thought that the whole thing required thorough overhauling, and I have instructed the Peishkars, after getting reports from the Tahsildars, if necessary, to inspect these lands, especially the big blocks, satisfy themselves that the lands are useful for grazing, ascertain by means of local opinion and other standards the number of cattle using the lands and then send lists to Government so that Government may effectively check the occupation of these lands, and remove from these lists lands which may be required for more urgent purposes and take steps to assign them. These were the instructions issued. I am sorry to see that these lists have not been received yet. Only one list has till now been received.

As regards the 95 acres ordered to be registered I have seen these lands myself—lands on which even grass does not grow—lands absolutely necessary for homeless Parayas and Sambavars. After personally seeing that they were homeless I ordered that these lands should be split up into small house-sites. That is all the registry that has been recently done. The policy has all along been to preserve, as grazing lands, lands which are useful for grazing, The new policy, if this policy can be called new, is the policy of restricting the indiscriminate occupation of lands really useful for grazing.

As regards the 51 acres, they had to be registered, or at least portions of them had to be registered, because people were allowed to squat. They had made costly improvements and it was considered inequitable to eject them out of these lands. To prevent such encroachments, we have now the Land Records Establishment.

I believe Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai would choose to withdraw his resolution in the light of these explanations.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

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